

October 29, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Written Ex Parte filed in IP-Enabled Services proceeding - WC Docket 04-36

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) urges the FCC not to separate out the jurisdictional issues associated with the IP-Enabled Services proceedings from the other issues in that proceeding, but instead to complete the proceeding and act simultaneously on all existing issues in the IP-Enabled Services proceeding.

NASUCA understands that VoIP may offer important benefits to consumers but believes that a number of critical issues must be comprehensively considered to ensure that a sound regulatory policy is developed. These issues include universal service and universal service support, local number portability, customer service and access to and support of E9-1-1. A complete listing of our concerns about VoIP can be found in our filing in WC Docket No. 04-36.

NASUCA concurs with those parties – which include the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors, among others – who have recently urged the FCC to refrain from deciding the jurisdictional issue now, while addressing other VoIP issues later, and who support a “holistic” approach to VoIP.

NASUCA is concerned that a piecemeal approach to these proceedings – as proposed by a recent letter from certain House members suggesting an expeditious resolution to jurisdictional matters – only promises to derail a rational approach to VoIP, resulting in muddled, conflicting, and anticonsumer policies.

All aspects of this proceeding must be carefully considered simultaneously. Anything less would jeopardize the promise of this new technology.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Acquard, Executive Director
National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates

CC: Commissioners Abernathy, Adelstein, Copps, and Martin